



EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Feedback Form for Commission Meeting

Date of Meeting: June 4, 2012 – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Sandra Spangler, Maria Matos, Eli Ramos, Mabel Hernandez-Saienni, Jim Lesko

Broad Issues Identified/Discussed

“Race To The Top Early Childhood Grant/State of Preschool Education in DE”

Presentation by Jim Lesko, Ed.D., Director, Early Childhood Development & Learning Resources Teaching and Learning Branch, DE Department of Education

Specific Issues Identified/Discussed

- Delaware was granted \$49,478,774 to be used over the next four years.
- Delaware’s application focuses on four key areas of activity:
 - Addressing the health and development needs of the whole child.
 - Building a professional and effective early childhood workforce.
 - Strengthening Stars to drive high-quality programming; and
 - Aligning birth-to-eight approaches to school readiness(Power Point presentation shared)
- Delaware currently has 28,022 children, birth to kindergarten entry, from low income families.
- How is the Hispanic community folded into the scope of work within the RTTT Grant?
 - The federal government’s focus is on high needs students, one being dual language learners. Therefore, the Early Childhood Grant was written to meet the needs of these high needs students.
 - Help Me Grow communications 211 phone line is currently being run by Wanda Lopez – associated with United Way
 - 32 mental health clinicians will be trained each year – importance of ensuring they have dual language backgrounds

- Use of Health Ambassadors to Latino areas to assist parents in obtaining health care for their children
- Readiness Initiatives – importance of getting Latino parents out
- Screening & assessment tool to be used with preschoolers will meet the needs of second language learners (a variety of languages). National consultant, Debbie Zacarrian, is helping to review the data of dual language learners. The tool will assess language, literacy, general motor and social-emotional development.
- The Education Subcommittee will continue to communicate with Jim to advocate for Hispanic preschoolers and may be able to assist the Advisory Committee for Leadership Coaches
- Jim Lesko agreed to become a non-commission partner to the Education Subcommittee.
- At this time, the focus/scope of work for Ed. Subcommittee will be preschool – setting the stage for learning.

Action Steps to Achieve Additional Information

1. The next meeting of the Ed. Subcommittee is scheduled for August 9, 2012, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the new Capital School District Administration Building. We will try to make teleconferencing available.

2. Invite Marie – Anne Aghazadian, Director of the Delaware Parent Information Center to the August meeting to speak about what PIC is doing to meet the needs of parents, specifically Latino parents, in the areas of parenting, literacy skills, and teaching parents to effectively communicate/work with their children's daycare centers/schools.